

Claims:

1. A method for providing cellular telephone service in the U.S. to and/or from outside the U.S., said method comprising:

- a) bringing into the U.S. a phone programmed with one of a plurality of U.S. cell phone numbers which were obtained in bulk;
- b) providing dedicated switching equipment in the U.S.; and
- c) routing all international calls from the phone brought into the U.S. through the dedicated switching equipment.

2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

- d) routing all domestic calls to/from the phone brought into the U.S. through the existing U.S. cell phone network.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said step of routing includes programming the phone to speed dial the dedicated switching equipment.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said step of routing includes routing all calls to numbers that start with zero.

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5. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

d) creating billing information based on Caller ID data acquired at the dedicated switching equipment.

6. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

d) notifying the dedicated switching equipment when the phone is brought into the U.S.

7. A method according to claim 6, further comprising:

e) notifying the dedicated switching equipment when the phone is taken out of the U.S.

8. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

d) associating a non-U.S. telephone number with the phone number of the phone brought into the U.S.; and

e) forwarding calls to the non-U.S. phone number to the phone number of the phone brought into the U.S.

9. A method according to claim 8, further comprising:

f) providing dedicated switching equipment outside the U.S., wherein

said step of forwarding includes routing calls through the dedicated switching equipment outside the U.S.

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10. A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said step of obtaining U.S. cellular telephone numbers in bulk is performed by a first entity,

said step of bringing into the U.S. a phone programmed with one of the numbers which were purchased in bulk is performed by a second entity, and

said step of providing dedicated switching equipment in the U.S. is performed by a third entity.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein:

said second entity is the customer of said first entity.

12. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

d) obtaining the plurality of U.S. cell phone numbers in bulk

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said phone is a part of a bulk purchase of phones.

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14. A method of providing cellular telephone service in the U.S. to and/or from outside the U.S., said method comprising:

a) providing a cellular telephone to a traveler from outside the U.S., the cellular telephone programmed with a U.S. cell phone number; and

b) calling a dedicated switch in the U.S., said switch adapted to communicate with a telephone company outside the U.S. to effect forwarding of telephone calls from a non-U.S. telephone number to the U.S. cell phone number.

15. An apparatus for providing cellular telephone service in the U.S. to and/or from outside the U.S., said apparatus comprising:

a) a cellular phone programmed with one of a plurality of U.S. cell phone numbers which were purchased in bulk;

b) dedicated switching equipment in the U.S.; and

c) means for routing all international calls to/from the phoned brought into the U.S. through the dedicated switching equipment.

16. An apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

d) means for routing all domestic calls to/from the cellular phone through the existing U.S. cell phone network.

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17. An apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

d) means for associating a non-U.S. telephone number with the phone number of the phone brought into the U.S.; and

e) means for forwarding calls to the non-U.S. phone number to the phone number of the phone brought into the U.S.

18. A method for providing cellular telephone service in the U.S. to and/or from outside the U.S., said method comprising:

a) providing a dedicated switch in the U.S. for carrying calls to outside the U.S.; and

b) providing a cell phone pre-programmed to direct all international calls through the dedicated switch.

19. A method for providing cellular telephone service in the U.S. to and/or from outside the U.S., said method comprising:

a) providing a dedicated switch in the U.S. for carrying calls to outside the U.S.;

b) providing a cell phone with a U.S. phone number;

c) automatically routing all international from the cell phone through the dedicated switch; and

d) automatically routing all domestic calls to/from the cell phone through the U.S. cell phone network.

20. A method for providing international cellular telephone service in the U.S., said method comprising:

- a) providing a cell phone with a U.S. phone number; and
- b) receiving at the cell phone with the U.S. phone number a call destined for a cell phone with a non-U.S. number.

21. A method according to claim 20, wherein:

said providing includes renting the cell phone to a traveler to the U.S. from a foreign country.

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